been accepted in principle. These facilities are initially proposed to be provided at Delhi and Mumbai Airports. However, in view of the existing security scenario in the sub-continent, the implementation of the scheme has been postponed.

(d) No, Sir.

Constitution of a core group of NGO activists by NHRC

2519. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Human Rights Commission has constituted a core group of well-known NGO activists to serve as a monitoring mechanism for its consultations with non-governmental organisations working in the field of human rights;

(b) if so, what will be the main purpose of this core group;

(c) whether the group will build up a database of NGOs and also identify broad areas of cooperation between NHRC and NGOs operating in different regions of the country; and

(d) if so, to what extent the setting up of this group has helped NHRC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) holds consultations from time to time with the NGOs engaged in the field of human rights. To review the progress of these Consultations and to serve as a monitoring mechanism, the Commission has constituted a Core Group under the Chairmanship of Shri Chaman Lal, Special Rapporteur, NHRC with the following as Members:

1. Smt. Aruna Roy, Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan.
2. Shri Henri Tiphagne, People's Watch, Tamil Nadu.
3. Shri Harsh Mandar, Action Aid India.
4. Shri Javed Abidi, National Centre for Promotion of Employment of Disabled People.

5. Shri Ravi Nair, South Asian Human Rights Documentation Centre.

6. Dr. Y. P. Chhibbar, People's Union Liberties.

7. Mrs. Meera Shiva, Voluntary Association of India.

8. Shri Ashok Rawat, Helpage India.

9. Ms. Federica Donati, UNICEF.

(b) The Group has been set up with a view to utilize their knowledge of NGO's and expertise in the area of human rights for assisting the Commission.

(c) One of the objective of setting up the Core Group is to identify the NGOs with good track records engaged in the field of human rights and to build up a data base of such NGOs.

(d) The Group has started functioning only recently. It is too early at this stage to make any assessment of the outcomes.

Capacity of female prison cell in Tihar Jail

2520. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the capacity of female prison cell in Tihar Jail, Delhi alongwith the number of female prisoners therein at present;

(b) whether it is a fact that majority of female detenues are under-trials who languish in jail for offences for which sentences would have been far less had they been convicted and what is the number of such detenues; and

(c) what is the number of Special Courts held in Tihar Jail during the last 2 years for expeditious disposal of cases of women under trials and how many of them have since been released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) 500 Women Prisoners were lodged in the women jail *i.e.*, Central Jail No. 6A, Tihar as on 6th December, 2001 as against its capacity of 400 prisoners.